

CLAIMS

1. A biopsy punch comprising:
 - a handle;
 - a transparent cutting section; and
 - a transparent cutting end of the cutting section providing visibility of skin being sampled by the biopsy punch.
2. The biopsy punch of claim 1 and further comprising a shelf proximate the cutting end to provide a positive stop.
3. The biopsy punch of claim 1 wherein the handle is transparent.
4. The biopsy punch of claim 1 wherein the cutting section is formed of a transparent plastic.
5. The biopsy punch of claim 4 wherein the cutting section is formed of polycarbonate.
6. The biopsy punch of claim 1 wherein the cutting section is formed of glass.
7. The biopsy punch of claim 1 and further comprising gripping structures on the handle.
8. The biopsy punch of claim 1 wherein the cutting section is hollow, allowing viewing of the skin being sampled through the middle of the cutting section.
9. The biopsy punch of claim 1 wherein the cutting section has a chamfer on the cutting end that provides a sharp cutting edge.

10. The biopsy punch of claim 1 wherein the cutting edge is a shape selected from the group consisting of circular, elliptical and polygonal.
11. A biopsy punch comprising:
 - a transparent cutting section;
 - a handle fixed to the cutting section and extending laterally away from the cutting section at a desired angle; and
 - a transparent cutting end of the cutting section, wherein the cutting section extends from the handle to provide visibility of skin being sampled by the biopsy punch.
12. The biopsy punch of claim 11 wherein the cutting section is hollow, and the handle allows viewing of the skin through the hollow cutting section.
13. The biopsy punch of claim 12 wherein the cutting section extends through the handle.
14. The biopsy punch of claim 11 and further comprising a shelf proximate the cutting end to provide a positive stop.
15. The biopsy punch of claim 11 wherein at least a portion of the handle is transparent.
16. The biopsy punch of claim 11 wherein the cutting section is formed of a transparent plastic.
17. The biopsy punch of claim 16 wherein the cutting section is formed of polycarbonate.
18. The biopsy punch of claim 11 wherein the cutting section is formed of glass.

19. The biopsy punch of claim 9 and further comprising gripping structures on the handle.
20. The biopsy punch of claim 11 wherein the cutting section has a chamfer on the cutting end that provides a sharp cutting edge.
21. A method of taking a biopsy of skin, the method comprising:
 - placing a biopsy punch proximate an area of skin to be sampled;
 - viewing the skin to be sampled through a transparent cutting section of the biopsy punch;
 - positioning the biopsy punch based on such viewing; and
 - taking a biopsy of the skin.